

MFC STATE SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 2004

EMS, Pearl, Ms.

Members Present: Jim Sledge, Robbie Gill, Andy Taylor, Danny Bryant, Greg Bourgue, Jim Edwards, Danny Moore, Richard Tice, Greg Chatham, Doug VanDevander, Ken Frazier, Bob Ponder.

Old Business

Vendor for nomex clothing is not on state contract yet. Need to check with Bob before buying clothes. They are applying for a grant from the U.S.F.S. to purchase nomex clothing.

Mr. Sledge agrees that cross training on equipment in counties and adjoining counties is a good idea.

Procedures for western fire details (see appendix 1). Mr. Sledge stated that this is the guideline they are following.

Mr. Sledge wants an in state emergency response plan. This is not any relation to western fire crews. This plan will cover natural disasters.

Mr. Sledge says on wildlife enclosures to use good judgment. He also agreed that this would be useful information for dispatch.

Greg says keep up the good work on protecting radios. He also stated on the newer and older vehicles that they are going to have double fuses for the radios.

Those districts that have not given Andy their information on their tower sites to be sold need to do so.

The council due to its cost passed on the reflective emblem for vehicles. They did come up with a possible alternative of reflective tape.

Districts that have not received their high visibility yellow sleeves for the guide wire on repeater sites need to get with Greg for distribution.

Danny Bryant passes out fire weather parameters for the districts. He stated that these parameters are guidelines and that people on the ground need to beware of situations and conditions. Mr. Sledge says to be aware of this and use good judgment. Danny Bryant also asked for feedback on the parameters. The fire parameters are appendix 2.

Question of volunteer fire department volunteers using M.F.C. drip torches on fire. Only if volunteer is capable and dressed appropriately. Do not let them use M.F.C. equipment if they are untrained personnel.

Helmet on Kawaski mule, Andy says refer to owners manual. Copy of dashboard sticker from manual is appendix 3. Nursery personnel can wear hardhat with chinstrap on mule because nursery environment would be considered construction site. All others required helmet to be worn.

New Officers

Chairperson – Bobbie Gill
Vice Chairperson – Steven Williams
Secretary – Bob Ponder

New Business

East Central District

Question for money for boots, no money. New Employee uniforms still \$300. Old employee clothing allotment smaller amount but not this year.

Loose objects in bed of trucks can pose a flying projectile in case of a sudden stop.

Where to place fire extinguishers so they can be accessible. Andy answers this question, mounted on floor near drivers door is preferred.

Southwest District

Question of dispatch having exotic pen information. Mr. Sledge agrees that dispatch needs this information on these sensitive sites.

E.M.S.

Danny Moore said need to check Humvees for loose brake caliper brackets on front and rear chunks. Note when in reverse sounds like constant velocity (CV) joint clicking.

When working on dozers and the blade needs to be kept raised, chain dozer blades in secure position, can use jack stands or blocks. Do not chain to risers or r.o.p.s.

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Surplus has a 10 or 12-ton floor jack. Contact Danny Moore if interested.

Danny Bryant hands out new fireline handbooks. He says show to training officer and discuss at next district safety meeting.

Bob Ponder gives out fire extinguisher stickers. He says if more are needed let him know.

Andy says safety page is being worked on. It will have several links. Open for suggestions, ideas, certain topics, just let Andy know.

A.T.V. torch project from Missoula is still being worked on, see Andy for nineteen page handout.

Ms. Forestry Commission A.T.V. torching is still suspended.

New goggles are passed out. Andy asks for feedback and to see if there is an interest in people willing to wear. A questionnaire was also given to put feedback on.

Southeast District

Notes inclement weather. Lightning is still causing problems.

Jim Edwards

Watch out for flash flooding situations while working in woods. Particularly in areas with high water.

Watch for Meth labs and their distinct smells.

South Central District

Need to sweep rocks off two tons. This will prevent some claims from broken windshields.

Move vehicles when mowing grass to avoid throwing debris into them and causing damage. Remove debris before mowing if possible.

Wear safety glasses.

Northeast District

Back injury from moving sofa at work center. Other man's hand slipped causing injured back.

Know your limits on bridges

July 15-16: July 26-27, fire shelter refresher, truck training by counties.

Communications

Greg brags on good job we are doing on protecting radio's when jumping off vehicles.

New and old vehicle radios are going to be doubled fused.

Mr. Sledge thanked everyone for their time on the safety council. He also stated do not stop stressing **SAFETY**.

Andy Taylor went over accident reports.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2004, 10:30 A.M. at training center in Pearl (if open).

Sorry in taking so long on reporting the minutes.

I would also like to thank Richard Tice for his time as chairperson.

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

June 15, 2004

TO: All MFC Personnel
FROM: Jim Sledge, State Forester
SUBJECT: Federal Fire Detail Procedures

At the May 25th District Foresters Meeting, procedures for MFC employee involvement in Federal Fire Details were established. All the District Foresters and State Office staff present agreed upon these procedures. State Office staff included; Jim Sledge, Everard Baker, Jimmy Mordica, Darlene Slater and Ken Frazier. The established procedures are as follows.

- 1.) When a MFC Crew is mobilized, it will consist of 19-20 personnel with no more than 4 employees from any one district. Only one MFC Crew (with the afore mentioned consistency) will be allowed to go out at any one time.
- 2.) No more than 10 Single Resources will be allowed to go out at any one time. When those 10 are out, the Districts will status all others as unavailable until someone returns. The State Office will inform the Districts when the limit is reached.
- 3.) If the situation arises where 10 (or close to 10) Single Resources are out on details and one of the Incident Management Teams that include MFC
* personnel is mobilized, the State Forester will have the discretion to approve more than 10. This will be done on a case-by-case basis depending on local conditions and activity.
- 4.) All requests for Single Resource availability will be made through the employee's supervisor.
- 5.) All requests for Crew availability will be made through the State Forester (for approval to put a crew together) and the affected employee's supervisor (for availability).
- 6.) A standard Federal fire detail lasts for 14 days (on assignment) plus travel.
Any request for extension must come through the affected employee's supervisor and be approved by the State Forester.
- 7.) Each employee will be allowed up to 15 working days of Administrative Leave With Pay to go on Federal fire details and/or attend out-of-state fire training. If that is exhausted, the employee must use Personal Leave.

The above procedures do not apply to Compact fire details.



Jim Sledge, State Forester

Appendix 1

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Parameters for Prescribed Burning

DRAFT

Parameters (Min. or Max. Limits)	Dormant Season	Growing Season	Site Preparation
Temperature	75 or Greater	85 or Greater	95 or greater
RH	25% or Lower	25% or Lower	25% or Lower
Windspeed (20 ft.)	1 8mph or Higher	1 8mph or Higher	1 8mph or Higher
KBDI	350 or Greater	500 or Greater	550 or Greater
Fuel Moisture (10 hr.)	7% or lower	7% or lower	7% or lower

If any of the above minimum or maximum parameters are reached or exceeded, prescribed burning should not be conducted on that day.

These parameters are not intended to limit potential burning days but to provide guidance for preventing fires from escaping under extreme conditions.

The weather readings can be obtained by checking the National Weather Service web site for your area of concern. For more site-specific information, you can look at one of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). These sites are accessible from the Southern Area web site;

<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/sacc/> Look under weather, RAWS obs maps, Southern Area.

Appendix 2

20 LOCATION OF LABELS

WARNING

The Owner's Manual and warning labels contain important information on safe operation of this vehicle.

You must read and fully understand the Owner's Manual and warning labels before operating this vehicle. Keep the Owner's Manual with this vehicle at all times.

Use on public road is hazardous.

This vehicle is designed and equipped for off-highway use only.

Children may not have skills and judgment to safely operate this vehicle.

All operators should possess a valid driver's license.

Carrying passengers outside the passenger compartment can be hazardous.

This vehicle is designed to carry the operator and only one passenger in the seat provided.

Protective headgear reduces the risk of head injuries.

Use of helmet in rough terrain and a hard hat at construction sites is especially recommended.

Seat belts reduce injuries.

Always fasten your seat belt.

Alcohol and drugs impair reaction time and judgment.

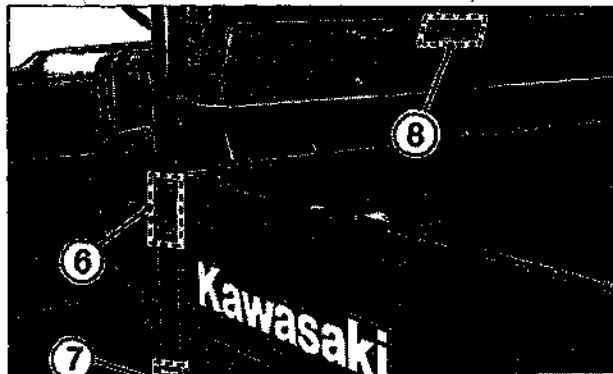
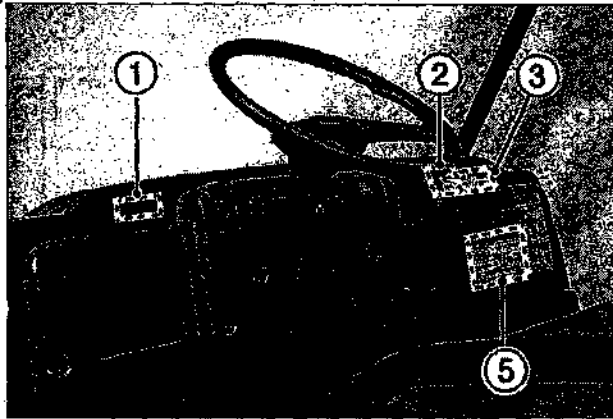
Never drink and ride.

Failure to apply parking brake may result in vehicle moving inadvertently.

Apply parking brake before leaving vehicle.

LOCATION OF LABELS 17

LOCATION OF LABELS



1. Warning (Off-Highway Utility Vehicle)
2. Warning (Front Cargo Hood)
3. Caution (Shifting)
5. Warning (General)
6. Important Information (Tires/Max. Load)
7. Warning (Cargo Bed)
8. Cargo Bed Information
9. Warning (Hot Surfaces)

